

Questionnaire for E-Gov Presidential Initiative or Line of Business Standards Selection Process

Background:

Each E-Gov Presidential Initiative and Line of Business (LOB) requires the use of standards for deployment of innovative, web-based information technology (IT) services. Standards are required to ensure the necessary interoperability and security between government agencies, businesses, and citizens. Such standards are generally private sector, consensus-based standards. In cases where no suitable private sector standards are available, USG may develop and adopt government unique standards.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has recognized the need to identify and validate appropriate and effective standards for E-Gov applications to ensure that the most effective standards are used in E-Gov applications and has assigned this responsibility to NIST. The lack of uniform, effective standards can lead to problems in internet accessibility, data compatibility, as well as national security and personal privacy concerns. NIST has established this E-Gov validation process to address such concerns and to assist federal agencies in the selection of appropriate E-Gov standards.

Instructions:

Please complete the questionnaire in its entirety and forward to:

Mary H. Saunders, Chief
Standards Services Division
100 Bureau Drive, MS 2100
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2100

email: *mary.saunders@nist.gov*
fax: 301-975-4715

If you have any questions regarding the questionnaire you can contact David Alderman on 301-975-4019 (*david.alderman@nist.gov*) or Maureen Breitenberg on 301-975-4031 (*maureen.breitenberg@nist.gov*).

1. Title of E-Gov Initiative or Line of Business:

Disaster Management Program (DM) is an e-gov initiative.

2. Initiative / LOB website:

www.safecomprogram.gov

The basic structure of DM is modeled after SAFECOM, which also resides in Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) within the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate. The DM program recently transitioned its operational and maintenance responsibilities for the Disaster Management Interoperability Service (DMIS) and the Open Platform for Emergency Networks (OPEN) to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). S&T is the primary DHS organization responsible for research and development activities and DMIS and OPEN achieved a fully operational status which required a transition to another DHS support organization.

DM is currently working with the SAFECOM program to update the www.safecomprogram.gov web site to include specific information on the DM data standards initiative.

3. Name and contact information for responsible Project Manager:

*Denis Gusty
202-254-5647
denis.gusty@dhs.gov*

4. Name and contact information for questions regarding standards used in this initiative/LOB (if different from above):

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5. Describe the process that was undertaken to choose and/or develop the standards required to implement the objectives of the Initiative or LOB:

The DM program has implemented a governance structure that ensures emergency responder/practitioner requirements drive the standards development process. DM's Practitioner Steering Group (PSG) and Standards Working Group (SWG) provides the inputs for the specific standards to be developed. This creates a process driven by the community that end-user of the standards – emergency responders and practitioners. The PSG, comprised of association-appointed representatives from 18 key emergency response and policy making organizations, provides recommendations and high level requirements for the standards.

The SWG, comprised of practitioners, industry, and representatives from other Federal information sharing efforts, develops detailed functional and technical requirements by which draft data messaging standards are developed for the emergency response community. The functional and technical requirements that are garnered from the SWG are translated into working standards and are then formally submitted to an accredited standards organization for formal review and approval.

As noted in Question 1, DMIS and OPEN were transitioned to FEMA. The standards research and development activities related to DM and data interoperability shall remain within the S&T directorate and will continue to be managed under the OIC management structure with continued coordination with other DHS interoperability initiatives.

6. When determining standards needs were consensus standards given first consideration? If not, why?

Yes. The DM program receives guidance from its PSG on which standards need to be developed. The first step of this process is to research existing standards and determine if they meet the information sharing needs of the emergency response community. DM coordinates with other standards development organizations and standards approving entities to ensure standards are not duplicated and that DM leverages work already completed. While doing this, DM ensures the integrity of the practitioner-driven philosophy of the program.

7. Describe the process used to ensure that input from all appropriate stakeholders, public and private, was considered?

The DM program has implemented a governance structure that ensures emergency responder/practitioner requirements drive the standards development process. DM's Practitioner Steering Group (PSG) and Standards Working Group (SWG) provides the inputs for the specific standards to be developed. This creates a process driven by the end-user of the standards – emergency responders and practitioners.

The DM program also includes interested private-industry representatives in the standards development process, primarily through the Emergency Interoperability Consortium (EIC) – a non-profit consortium that works to promote the design, development, release, and use of Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) standards to help solve data sharing challenges encountered within the emergency responder and practitioner communities. DM and the EIC work together to demonstrate standards and expedite adoption in vendor products and services thereby making them available to the end-users as quickly as possible.

8. Please list participating federal agencies involved in selecting or developing and implementing standards for the initiative/LOB:

- *Department of Homeland Security Office for Interoperability and Compatibility*
- *Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Management Systems Division (IMSD)*
- *Department of Homeland Security National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) Office*
- *Department of Homeland Security Office of Standards*
- *Department of Homeland Security Enterprise Data Management Office (EDMO)*
- *Health and Human Services (HHS) – Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP)*
- *National Protection and Programs Directorate Office for Emergency Communications*
- *National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Public Safety Communications Lab*

9. Please list participating state or local governments agencies involved in developing and implementing standards for the initiative/LOB:

The DM program primarily enlists support from emergency responder associations and state and local agencies via the associations that represent the broadest representation of these stakeholder groups. Below is the list of associations involved with the DM program and its PSG:

<i>American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)</i>	<i>Association of Public Safety Communications Officials- International, Inc. (APCO)</i>
<i>Association of Public Safety Communications Officials- International, Inc. (APCO)</i>	<i>International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)</i>
<i>International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)</i>	<i>International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)</i>
<i>Joint National Emergency Medical Services Leadership Conference (JNEMSLC)</i>	<i>Law Enforcement Information Technology Standards Council (LEITSC)/International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)</i>
<i>National Association of Counties (NACo)</i>	<i>National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)</i>
<i>National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)</i>	<i>National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)</i>
<i>National Governors Association (NGA)</i>	<i>National League of Cities (NLC)</i>
<i>National League of Cities (NLC)</i>	<i>National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)</i>
<i>National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)</i>	<i>The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)</i>

10. Please list participating private sector organizations involved in developing and implementing standards for the initiative/LOB:

- *Emergency Interoperability Consortium (EIC)*
- *Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP)*

11. Please list participating voluntary consensus standards bodies involved in developing and implementing standards for the initiative/LOB:

- *Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS)*
- *American National Standards Institute (ANSI)*
- *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)*

12. Please provide a list of standards relevant to the development and implementation of the initiative/LOB.

- Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) – approved March 2004
- Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) Distribution Element – approved May 2006
- EDXL Hospital Availability Exchange (HAVE) – pending OASIS approval
- EDXL Resource Messaging (RM) – pending OASIS approval
- EDXL – Situational Reporting – in development
- EDXL – Victim/Patient Tracking – in development